

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Improving Health Care Quality: An Integral Step Toward Health Reform".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at 3:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing entitled "Nominations" on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room SD-562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Protecting the Right to Vote: Oversight of the Department of Justice's Preparation for the 2008 General Election" on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at 2:15 p.m., in room SD-562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Committee on Environment and Public Works, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to hold a hearing entitled, "Economic Development Administration Oversight."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that MAJ Anthony Williams, Mr. Yariv Pierce, and Mr. Ramy Yaacoub be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the week on behalf of Senator BILL NELSON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPOTTSWOOD W. ROBINSON III AND ROBERT R. MERHIGE, JR., FEDERAL COURTHOUSE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair lay before the Senate the House message to accompany S. 2403.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MENENDEZ) laid before the Senate the amendments of the House of Representatives to the bill (S. 2403) entitled "An Act to designate the new Federal Courthouse, located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, VA, as the 'Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., Federal Courthouse'." do pass with the following amendments:

S. 2403

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 2403) entitled "An Act to designate the new Federal Courthouse, located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the 'Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., Federal Courthouse'." do pass with the following amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse".

Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to designate the United States courthouse located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the 'Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse'."

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding there is no objection to this, and it has been cleared by the Republicans. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate concur in the House amendments, that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on S. 2403, a bill to name the new U.S. courthouse in Richmond, VA, after two distinguished jurists and sons of Virginia.

Senator WEBB and I introduced this bill last year, and the bill passed the Senate on June 24, 2008. The House of Representatives passed the bill last night, with a minor technical change, by a vote of 376 to 0. Tonight, I would like to thank the Senate for accepting this minor modification and once again passing this bill.

Our bill recognizes two of Virginia's outstanding jurists: Spottswood Robinson III and Robert Merhige, Jr. They were lawyers who throughout their careers adhered to the principle of "equal justice under law."

The first, Spottswood William Robinson III, was born in Richmond, VA, on

July 26, 1916. He attended Virginia Union University and then the Howard University School of Law, graduating first in his class in 1939 and serving as a member of the faculty until 1947.

Judge Robinson was one of the core attorneys of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund from 1948 to 1960, achieving national prominence in the legal community with his representation of the Virginia plaintiffs in the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education*. *Brown* outlawed public school segregation declaring "separate but equal" schools unconstitutional.

In 1964, Judge Robinson became the first African American to be appointed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, and in 1966, President Johnson appointed Judge Robinson the first African American to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Finally, on May 7, 1981, Judge Robinson became the first African American to serve as Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Circuit.

Our second jurist, Judge Robert R. Merhige, Jr., was born in 1919 and later attended High Point College in North Carolina. He subsequently earned his law degree from the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond, from which he graduated at the top of his class in 1942.

From 1942 to 1945, Judge Merhige served in the U.S. Air Force. He practiced law in Richmond from 1945 to 1967, establishing himself as a formidable trial lawyer representing criminal defendants as well as dozens of insurance companies.

On August 30, 1967, Judge Merhige was appointed U.S. District Court judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division, by President Lyndon B. Johnson, serving as a Federal judge until 1998. In 1972, Judge Merhige ordered the desegregation of dozens of Virginia school districts. He considered himself to be a "strict constructionist" who went by the law as spelled out in precedents by the higher courts. In 1970, he ordered the University of Virginia to admit women. As evidence of Judge Merhige's groundbreaking decisions, he was given 24-hour protection by Federal marshals due to repeated threats of violence against him and his family. His courage in the face of significant opposition of the times is a testimony to his dedication to the rule of law.

As my colleagues may be aware, I have worked to name the new courthouse in Richmond for these two men for several years. I am proud that the Virginia Congressional Delegation, the Virginia Bar Association, the mayor of Richmond, and many others decided that the best way to honor both men was to have them equally share the honor of having the courthouse so named.

With the ribbon cutting for this grand facility tentatively set for October 17 of this year, I am pleased by the passage of this legislation in honor of

Spottswood Robinson and Robert Merhige. Mr. President, in conclusion, I thank my colleagues in joining me in support of this legislation, and I thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of these two great Virginians.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, September 10; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period of morning business for up to 1 hour with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 3001, the Defense authorization bill, as provided under a previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I conferred with Senator LEVIN. It is clear in our minds that we should proceed on this bill. I think we are making progress on it. We may be able to finish this bill. There was some consideration given to filing cloture, but we both agreed that there is no need to do that; that we may be able to complete this legislation this week, and I hope in fact that is the case.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:15 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

SEAN T. CONNAUGHTON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2012, VICE A. PAUL ANDERSON, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JERRY GAYLE BRIDGES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE JOHN PORTMAN HIGGINS, RESIGNED.

NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD

PAMELA A. REDFIELD, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 6, 2013, VICE AMY OWEN, TERM EXPIRING.

THE JUDICIARY

LORETTA A. PRESKA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT, VICE CHESTER J. STRAUB, RETIRED.

J. MAC DAVIS, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN, VICE JOHN C. SHABAZ, RETIRING.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE AGENCIES INDICATED FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS TWO, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ORNA T. BLUM, OF VIRGINIA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 9, 2008:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MIN CHANG, OF CALIFORNIA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS FOUR, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ALYCE ABDALLA, OF CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL A. AGUILERA, OF WASHINGTON
JEAN ELIZABETH AKERS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DAVID CHRISTOPHER ALLEN, OF VIRGINIA
MARCIA SOFIA ANGLARILL, OF MARYLAND
CLAUDIA L. BAKER, OF CALIFORNIA
PETER R. BARTE, OF VIRGINIA
ARTHUR J. BELL, OF CALIFORNIA
CARLA ANN BENINI, OF WASHINGTON
MICHAEL L. BENTON, OF MARYLAND
KATHARINE E. BERNSOHN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WENDY S. BRAFMAN, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
BRETT PLITT BRUEN, OF NEW YORK
MALGORZATA BULA-DUANE, OF NEW YORK
DEBORAH LYNN CAMPBELL, OF FLORIDA
KELLY HAPKA CARRILLO, OF TEXAS
MARK A. CAUDILL, OF VIRGINIA
HUNTER B. CHEN, OF CALIFORNIA
CECILIA S. CHOI, OF CALIFORNIA
CHARLOTTE ANN CROUCH, OF ARIZONA
JENNIFER D. CROW, OF CALIFORNIA
BRIAN SEAN DARIN, OF NEW YORK
HILARY CHISATO WATANABE DAUER, OF VIRGINIA
LEARNED H. DEES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
GARY LEE DEWEY, OF ARIZONA
DANIELA A. DIPIERRO, OF MASSACHUSETTS
TIMOTHY PATRICK DOUGHERTY, OF CALIFORNIA
JAMES A. DRAGON, OF VIRGINIA
JOHN HOLMES DUNNE, OF ALASKA
ARTHUR THOMPSON EVANS IV, OF OHIO
CHRISTIANA MARIE FOREMAN, OF CALIFORNIA
ERIC M. FRATER, OF CALIFORNIA
WARREN MITCHELL GRAY, OF FLORIDA
PHAEDRA MARIE GWYN, OF TEXAS
JENNIFER DIANA HARRIS, OF FLORIDA
JOHN CHARLES HARTMAN, OF TEXAS
CHRIS DHARMAN HENSMAN, OF RHODE ISLAND
ANDREW JAY, OF NEW YORK
DENISE JOBIN WELCH, OF VIRGINIA
PETER JAMES KAUFMAN, OF CALIFORNIA
BARBARA S. KEARY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JULIANNA JUNGHWANG KIM, OF ILLINOIS
LAWRENCE JOHN KIMMEL, OF WASHINGTON
JOEY E. KLINGER, OF PENNSYLVANIA
WENDY A. KOLLS, OF CALIFORNIA
MARIA V. LANE, OF COLORADO
JOHN S. LAROCHELLE, OF FLORIDA
ALICA EMIN LEJLIC, OF ILLINOIS
DEBORAH BERNIS LINGWOOD, OF FLORIDA
SARA L. LITKE, OF WASHINGTON
INGA LITVINSKY, OF MASSACHUSETTS
DONALD E. LOCKE, OF TEXAS
STEPHEN E. LYNAGH, OF NEW YORK
JOSLYN MACK-WILSON, OF VIRGINIA
HONG-GEOK T. MAERKLE, OF CALIFORNIA
RYAN D. MATHENY, OF CALIFORNIA
BRIAN J. MCGRATH, OF NEW YORK
ALEXANDER J. MCLAREN, OF VIRGINIA
ROBERT R. MEARKLE, OF MINNESOTA
CHRISTINE ELIZABETH MEYER, OF TEXAS
LIA N. MILLER, OF NEW YORK
SUMREEN K. MIRZA, OF CALIFORNIA
GLADYS ANGEL MOREAU, OF CALIFORNIA
BINDI KIRIT PATEL, OF CALIFORNIA
SARAH CATHERINE PECK, OF MASSACHUSETTS
ANDREW POSNER, OF CALIFORNIA
IDRIS RAHIMI, OF VIRGINIA
RONA RATHOD, OF CALIFORNIA

GARY L. REX, OF FLORIDA
MICHELLE LEE RIEBELING, OF MISSOURI
BRADLY J. ROBERSON, OF CALIFORNIA
KRISTIN LYNN ROCKWOOD, OF FLORIDA
MICHAEL R.J. ROTH, OF NEW MEXICO
JASON D. SEYMOUR, OF CALIFORNIA
JASON W. SHEETS, OF CALIFORNIA
FRANC XAVIER SHELTON, OF TEXAS
CARRIE ANNA SHIRTZ, OF WISCONSIN
NOAH SIEGEL, OF OREGON
RUSSELL SINGER, OF NEW YORK
ANDREW LEWIS SISK, OF VIRGINIA
LINDSEY DIANE SNOW, OF WASHINGTON
G. MICHAEL SNYDER, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL G. SPRING, OF ILLINOIS
RAYMOND W. STEPHENS III, OF NEW YORK
ROY THERRIEN, OF CALIFORNIA
CAROLYN L. TURPIN, OF FLORIDA
BERNARD CHITONGCO UADAN, OF FLORIDA
PAUL M. VALDEZ, OF TEXAS
NAOMI JOYCE WALCOTT, OF CONNECTICUT
CHARLENE WANG, OF CALIFORNIA
RUDDY KERFUN WANG, OF CALIFORNIA
ELIJAH J. WATERMAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA
SAMUEL WERBERG, OF NEW YORK
JOHN WILLIAM WHITELEY, OF ILLINOIS
NINGCHUAN ZHU, OF TEXAS

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE TO BE CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LINDA L. CARUSO, OF WISCONSIN
JENNIFER GOTHARD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
GREGORY HARRIS, OF WASHINGTON
ILONA SHTRUM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ALIZA L. TOTAYO, OF MARYLAND
MARK WILDMAN, OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KATHRYN E. ABATE, OF NEW JERSEY
MARK J. ABREU, OF VIRGINIA
JANICE ANDERSON, OF CALIFORNIA
RAMONA APONTE, OF MARYLAND
JASON M. ARVEY, OF VIRGINIA
DEBORAH H. ASCHENBACH, OF ILLINOIS
SHELLEY J. ASHER, OF VIRGINIA
ERIC TRANSFELDT ATKINS, OF WASHINGTON
MARK MADISON ATKISSON, OF MARYLAND
KARA L. AYOTTE, OF NEW MEXICO
ROLANDA N. BECKWITH, OF VIRGINIA
BARRY M. BELKNAP, OF MINNESOTA
JAMES M. BLACK, OF MARYLAND
BILLY BRIAN BLACKWELL, OF CALIFORNIA
DANIEL J. BLANK, OF VIRGINIA
ELIZABETH J. BLUMENTHAL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DANIEL C. BOLSINGER, OF NEW MEXICO
AMY BOYD, OF VIRGINIA
MEGHAN EILEEN BRADLEY, OF VIRGINIA
ERIC CHRISTOPHER BRIANS, OF VIRGINIA
RONALD A. BRIGGS, OF MARYLAND
PETER BROADBENT, OF TEXAS
LORETTA A. BUSHNELL, OF VIRGINIA
HARRY T. CALL, OF VIRGINIA
LEANNE R. CANNON, OF VIRGINIA
GEORGE EDWARD CARR, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
HEATHER K. CARSON, OF VIRGINIA
TYLER J. CARSON, OF VIRGINIA
AMANDA J. CAULDWELL, OF VIRGINIA
SUNG W. CHOI, OF NEW YORK
KAREN E. COX, OF VIRGINIA
FILOMENA C. CRAWFORD, OF VIRGINIA
JEFFREY D. DAHLBY, OF VIRGINIA
REBECCA M. DANIS, OF MISSOURI
ERICK M. DANZER, OF WISCONSIN
AMANDA R. DEKIEFFER, OF VIRGINIA
JAMES BUTLER DEWEY, OF IDAHO
CHRISTOPHER D. DOEHLE, OF VIRGINIA
JUAN DOMENECH CLAR, OF PUERTO RICO
NICOLE MARIE DUTRA, OF VIRGINIA
KATHERINE E. EISENLOHR, OF MICHIGAN
JAMES E. ERDMAN III, OF MICHIGAN
BRADLEY J. FERNANDEZ, OF VIRGINIA
RONALD A. FERRY, OF KENTUCKY
MARY FRANGAKIS, OF NEW YORK
KIMBERLY R. FURNISH, OF FLORIDA
PETRA SELVAGGIA GARDNER, OF VIRGINIA
NEIL S. GIPSON, OF NEBRASKA
GUDRUN ERIKA GOMEZ, OF MARYLAND
CARISSA EILEEN GONZALEZ, OF VIRGINIA
KATY A. GORE, OF VIRGINIA
KAREN GRAHAM, OF VIRGINIA
SARA D. GREENGRASS, OF FLORIDA
DERRICK J. GWYN, OF VIRGINIA
CRAIG ACTON HALBMAIER, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
COURTNEY A. HAMMOND, OF VIRGINIA
BENJAMIN C. HARVEY, OF VIRGINIA
JOHN C. HEINBECK, OF MICHIGAN
JAMES HENDERSON, OF VIRGINIA
DANIEL J. HORNING, OF MICHIGAN
SHARON A. HOWE, OF TEXAS
TRACY E. HUFF, OF VIRGINIA
FRANK A. INHOFF, OF VIRGINIA